

What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing book orders comprising the steps  
of:

- (a) Establishing a plurality of distribution centers;
- (b) Establishing a receiving center;
- (c) Receiving book orders from a plurality of customers;
- (d) Creating aggregated orders by way of sorting each of  
said book orders by book sellers corresponding to said  
aggregated orders;
- (e) Placing said aggregated orders with the corresponding  
book sellers;
- (f) Receiving the book orders corresponding to each of said  
aggregated orders from the corresponding book sellers  
at the receiving center;
- (g) Creating bulk shipments by way of sorting the book  
orders bound for the same distribution centers; and
- (h) Shipping said bulk shipments from the receiving center  
to the corresponding distribution centers;
- (i) Shipping the book orders to the plurality of customers  
from the distribution centers corresponding to each of  
the plurality of customers.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving book  
orders from a plurality of customers is done via a global  
computer network,

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving book orders from a plurality of customers is done via a telephone,

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving book orders from a plurality of customers is done via a facsimile,

5 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of creating a computer data file for each of said plurality of customers and assigning a customer purchase order number to each of said data files,

6. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the identifying information about the customer,

7. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about an International Standard Book Number corresponding to each book in the book order,

8. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the author of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

9. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the title of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

10. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the subtitle of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

11. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the edition of the book

corresponding to each book in the book order,

12. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the series of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

5 13. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the editor of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

10 14. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the publisher of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

15 15. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the publication date of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

15 16. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the list price of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

17. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the discount rate of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

20 18. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the format of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

19. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the image of the cover

page of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

20. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the key word of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

5 21. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the update date of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

22. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the subject of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

10 23. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the currency of the book corresponding to each book in the book order,

15 24. The method of claim 5 wherein each of said data files further comprises the information about the availability status of the book order corresponding to each book in the book order,

20 25. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of making the information contained in said data files available for access by the corresponding customers via the Internet by way of use of said customer purchase order number,

26. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of creating aggregated orders by way of sorting each of said book orders by book sellers corresponding to said aggregated orders further comprises the use of the International Standard Book Numbers

corresponding to each book in the book order,

27. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of creating bulk shipments by way of sorting the book orders bound for the same distribution centers further comprises the step of matching the International Standard Book Numbers corresponding to each book in the book order with the International Standard Book Numbers contained in said data files corresponding to each of said plurality of customers.

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